HARVARD UNIVERSITY LIBRARY NOTES

SHL
WITHDRAWN

June, 1941

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Number 31 Volume 4, No. 1

CONTENTS

Alfred Claghorn Potter, by *Samuel Atkins Eliot* 1

A Program for the Library, by *Keyes DeWitt Metcalf* 4

T. Franklin Currier and Selective Cataloguing at Harvard, by *Harry M. Lydenberg* 8

Thomas Franklin Currier, as seen by his Staff, compiled by *Mildred M. Tucker* 16

The New Rare Book Library, by *William A. Jackson* 23

Two Years of Books by Barter, by *Walter W. Wright* 25

Editorials 30

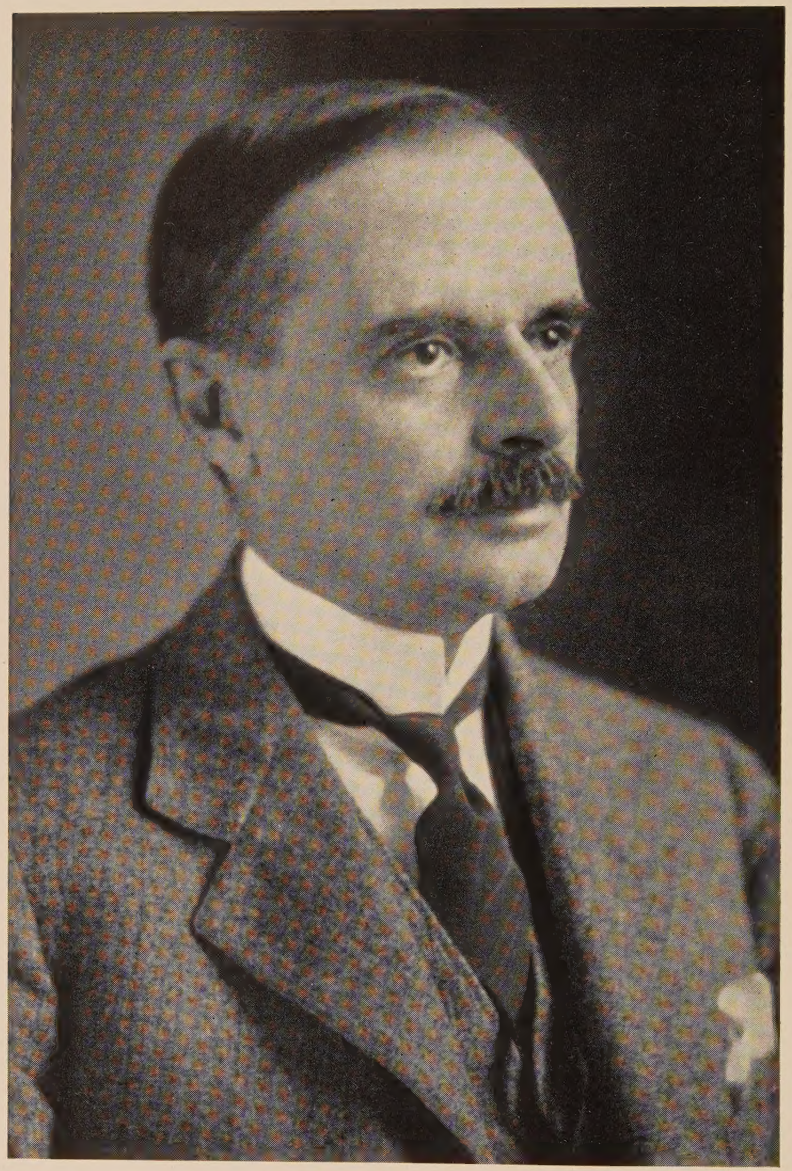
The Frances Blackler Kennedy Memorial Collection of Lafcadio Hearn, by *Harris Kennedy* 38

Corporation Material in the Business School Library, by *Arthur H. Cole* 46

Eugenia María De Hostos, by *Guillermo Rivera* 54

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026

https://archive.org/details/harvard-library-bulletin_1941-06_31_1



ALFRED CLAGHORN POTTER

1867—1940

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY NOTES

NUMBER 31 JUNE, 1941 Vol. 4, No. 1

ALFRED CLAGHORN POTTER

BY SAMUEL ATKINS ELIOT, D.D.

Alfred Claghorn Potter, Librarian Emeritus since 1936, died in California on October 31, 1940. Private funeral services were held in California, and burial took place in New Bedford, his boyhood home. The following appreciation was read by Reverend Samuel Atkins Eliot, Minister Emeritus of the Arlington Street Church, Boston, at a service in memory of Mr. Potter, held in the Appleton Chapel of the Memorial Church, on Tuesday, November 19, 1940.

WE have gathered here in a mood of grateful remembrance. We share happy memories of a modest, unassuming man who for nearly half a century rendered to the University an invaluable service and, in quiet, often unnoticed, ways nourished and reenforced the intellectual life of our academic community. Alfred Potter came of good New England stock. There was in him the unmistakable mingling of the Puritan and the Quaker. His forbears were named Samuel and Benjamin, Patience and Ruth. His father was bred in a Quaker household. Both father and son went to the Friends School in New Bedford. Alfred graduated here in 1889, took charge of the ordering department of our Library in 1893, rose to be assistant Librarian, became Librarian in 1928 and retired as Librarian Emeritus in 1936. Through all these years he not only worked for, but almost

A PROGRAM FOR THE LIBRARY

BY KEYES DEWITT METCALF

ON several occasions, in print and in talks, an attempt has been made to outline and explain the steps that are planned for the development of the physical plant for the Harvard University Library. Emphasis has been placed on the requirement of improved service which is constantly in the minds of all the Library staff, and consideration has been given to economic conditions as they are today and as they seem likely to be in the future. A prime requisite was to avoid the periodic wrecking of old buildings and the construction of new ones which has been so characteristic of the rapid growth of libraries in the colleges and universities of America.

It may be of interest at this time to try to show how the university library system should work once the plans have been realized. To summarize, they include:

(1) A new building for the rare and irreplaceable books and manuscripts. (This building is now under construction to the east of Widener and is described in this number of the *Notes*.)

(2) A coöperative storage warehouse to be used by Harvard and other research libraries in the Boston metropolitan area for the storage of their less used books. (The bill authorizing the incorporation of this organization, which is to be called the *New England Deposit Library*, was passed by the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and approved by the Governor in the spring of this year.)

(3) A new central library for undergraduates.

(4) A book stack under the southeast corner of the Yard, built in sections as required.

Let us consider that it is sometime in the 1950's, that the world has managed to hold together, and that the four plans just outlined have been carried out. We will assume that the resources of the University Library, which in 1941 were approaching 4,250,000

volumes and pamphlets, have passed the 6,000,000 mark with perhaps half of this number belonging to the central unit — the Harvard College Library. Widener, which in 1941 was full, with 2,000,000 pieces, could not provide for many more than that, and the other million have been stored in the new buildings mentioned above. The Treasure Room building, erected in 1941, has now (195–) about 200,000 items; the undergraduate library, which provides large reading room space but not many books, has 100,000 volumes. Some 15 percent of the bulk of the College Library's collections, although not 15 percent of the total number of pieces, are in the warehouse, which also contains an equal amount of material from other libraries belonging to the University, as well as a great mass from other libraries in metropolitan Boston. The first section of the underground stack, which provides shelving for 500,000 volumes, has been installed. So much for the physical set-up. How is the Library being used? Let us take three hypothetical cases:

(1) A sophomore.
(2) A senior honor student.
(3) A graduate student at work on his dissertation.

The sophomore, a group IV man, let us say, finds that he needs to use the Library for assigned reading. He goes to the centrally located undergraduate library. If he is working in the Social Sciences, he will find a special reading room for that field. If his subject is English Literature, a different room is indicated. In each room he will find most of the books he wants readily available on open shelves as they are now in Widener. To reach these reading rooms he finds that the most direct way is to go through the stack room comprising the central core of the building, and as he passes through it his attention will be caught by books which may interest him. The stack aisles are wide enough so that others can pass him without difficulty, and just before he reaches the reading room he enters a good-sized alcove with comfortable chairs in which he can sit down to read. If, in connection with his work, he wants to consult a reference collection, there is, immediately available, a reference room approximately the size of

the one in Widener, but with a larger collection of books. A browsing room and a periodical room are also near at hand.

Above the reading rooms are tutorial consultation rooms and tutorial collections for various departments of the College. Practically all of the books the sophomore wants in the course of his studies will be under this one roof. If he lives in one of the Houses he may prefer in many instances to use its library, but he remembers that there are only some 10,000 volumes in the House, and that the selection will be much larger in the "central undergraduate library." He also remembers having been told on various occasions that if he requires a still larger collection of books for use in connection with a special paper he can go to Widener without restriction of any kind.

We come now to the case of the senior honor student. He will use his House library for some of his work; he finds the books for assigned reading in the undergraduate library; he meets his tutor in the tutorial rooms in the same building; but in connection with his senior thesis, and often with other work, he has learned that it is desirable for him to go to Widener. When he goes there, since most of the undergraduates are using the undergraduate library, he finds plenty of space in the main reading room. If he is doing extensive work with stack material, although he probably cannot be assigned a stall in the stack, he will have space reserved for him at one of the reading room tables with a bookshelf close at hand on which the books with which he is working can be reserved.

The graduate student at work on his dissertation, since he is not living in a House, may never use one of the House libraries. He may find it convenient occasionally to drop into the undergraduate library in order to go to the browsing room, or to obtain material that it is easier to run down in a small collection, but in general he uses Widener. He has a stall assigned to him in the stack, as was true in 1941. If he is dealing with material that is in constant use, it is at hand as in the past. If he happens to be working, however, with some of the older books in the sciences, he may find that he must go down into the basement and through a tunnel to the underground stack in the southeast corner of the Yard. If, in con-

nection with his researches, he wants to use old newspaper volumes, old textbooks, or some of the older documents from minor countries in South America, the books that he wants are in the warehouse back of the Business School; and then he will have his choice of getting a card of introduction to present at the warehouse where study facilities will be readily obtainable, or of asking to have the books delivered to him in Widener by messenger twenty-four hours later.

If a library must stand ready to serve thousands of people, and if it has grown to millions of volumes, the quick access that one expects to find in a smaller and less used collection cannot be provided by any reasonable expenditure of money or effort. Difficulties will never be absent. The larger the collections become, and the more they are scattered throughout the University, the more the library must guard against errors, and arrangements that interfere with service and entail waste. The proposed plans have been made with those problems in mind. The Library is in full accord with the general policy of the University of "coördinated decentralization."

T. FRANKLIN CURRIER AND SELECTIVE CATALOGUING AT HARVARD

BY HARRY M. LYDENBERG

IN June, 1894, T. Franklin Currier left Harvard with an A.B. diploma in his pocket. The summer saw him working at the Boston Athenaeum library. In December of that same year he came back across the river, and since then his life has been spent with the books in the libraries housed in the Yard. With those books and those libraries he has played no slight part.

And the part he has played is that of the Cataloguer: granted that all the world's a stage, I sometimes think that when it comes to the library world mirrored in that way the cataloguer has just about as thrilling and applause-provoking a rôle as the newest and lowliest scene shifter. It's the reference librarian that holds the centre of the stage, he the actor that works in sight of the audience, he the man that even has a chance to talk with the playgoers and glean how they feel as the curtain comes down and the doors close for the evening. When it's all voted a fine performance I sometimes wonder how many that sat in front had any idea of what the backstage crews did to make sure that nothing went wrong to spoil the play.

The metaphor is probably scrambled, but I hope the thought gets across nonetheless. What I wanted to say was that the patient cataloguer has a lot to do with the speed and certainty and finality that mark the connection of reader with book, more than he is usually given credit for. Most of us look on the cataloguer as a man playing a game with book and reader, gloating over his success in setting down on that slip of cardboard all the things he's been able to learn about the book and its writer, quite, nay even cheerfully, indifferent to what the user really wants to know, perhaps even challenging the reader to find the book in spite of the cataloguer's best efforts.

That is unfair, of course, because the long-suffering and pains-

taking and hard-working cataloguer really has thrust upon him a problem incapable of solution, at least incapable of simple solution, with universal satisfaction. He's forced to blaze a trail for the trained woodsman that knows more about the game being stalked and the ground being covered than did even the man that fashioned the quarry, and at the same time the cataloguer has to mark the path so plainly that the city greenhorn may follow it blithely and easily, never straying to right or left.

That's all. The cataloguer has nothing to do but to set down on his slip of paper the name of the author and the words the writer used to label his product, add to that perhaps a bit of information as to where and when and by whom the thing was put before the world, even to tell something about what the book looks like. And of course it's the simplest thing imaginable to set down on another card a word or two telling the tale of what the author is driving at.

And when he's done that the cataloguer may go home and lay him down to sleep, happy as he reflects that John Doe and Richard Roe have now had their widely variant demands reduced to a common denominator understandable by all and sundry.

And now let us change from the cataloguer in the abstract to the cataloguer in the particular. In that respect Currier's part in current cataloguing work in this country calls for more than passing attention. More than any other man that comes to mind he stands forth as an advocate of what is called "simplified cataloguing."

What is "simplified cataloguing"?

Well, from an outsider's point of view it might be called a plea to give each book just as slight a description as the experienced reader may need and at the same time give it all the notes and helpful warnings the novice ought to have at hand.

To get an idea of just what that means to the reader in Widener, saying nothing for the moment about the interest Currier's preaching and practice may have for his fellow librarians, just stop a moment to look at what the Harvard catalogue was when he began his work and what it is now as he retires after forty-six years with it. Back in '94 it was still the "alphabetico-classified" catalogue

Ezra Abbot had started in '61, the first thing of its kind in this country, on cards about two by five inches in size — as contrasted with the present universal three by five — authors and subjects in separate arrangements. Nothing uncommon in that, to be sure. But Abbot's credit and glory rest on his success in developing a way to bring together cards of the same general kind and interest, breaking those broad groups down into smaller units that followed the general titles in alphabetical order.

I think it safe to say that in the eighties and nineties of the last century the Harvard catalogue was generally recognized as the best of the kind in the country, thanks to Abbot, to John Fiske who took great delight in his connection with it, to William H. Tillinghast, to William Coolidge Lane, whose printed listings of Harvard subject headings and related cross references were studied carefully the country over when they were not followed slavishly. Some of us think back with affection and delight as we recall our introduction to the protecting wires stretched over those cards, to the thin blocks of wood tilting the cards at a convenient angle, to the blocks carrying the subject headings on rounded forms, still (in memory, fond memory, at least) more than convenient to read.

But as the century came to the turn came also a tremendous increase in the use of what we now call the standard three by five card, so great an increase as practically to make the small sized sheet a curiosity. Moreover, the Library of Congress under Herbert Putnam's ('83) guidance was printing its catalogue on standard sized cards, which could be bought and used more cheaply than by cataloguing the book even at the scale of wages then paid Harvard cataloguers. Just before the change from Gore Hall to Widener came the decision to change from old "small cards" to the standard size, the final dropping of the old catalogue dating from 1915.

That was a time of unprecedented activities in the Harvard library world. Archibald Cary Coolidge ('87) had been made Director of Harvard Libraries in 1910. In 1912 came the offer of the Widener building to replace the old Gore Hall. The new building was opened in 1915. Books had been shifted around from

building to building. Collections had been sweeping in at speeds and in amounts undreamed of. Little if any additions had been made to the cataloguing staff. And at the same time came the demand to put the new arrivals promptly at the service of the readers. All this on top of the shift from old style cards to new. That meant recataloguing of every book on the shelves.

It is not a bit surprising that Currier bethought himself of some way to do this increased cataloguing, this recataloguing, this change to new sizes of cards, to do all this with no great increase in his staff. He surely deserves credit, great credit, for his development of "selective cataloguing."

Just what he had in mind and just how he worked it out may best be gleaned from his own words as he told about his plans and achievements at the cataloguers' round table at the American Library Association meeting at Saratoga Springs in July, 1924:

"Our first rule, framed for the undergraduate, is, then, to assign subject headings with freedom to books written in English, less freely to books in French, and with far less freedom to books in other languages. This rule, to be sure, will suit the needs of the undergraduate, but it will exclude many titles useful to the mature scholar to whom I have already referred, who is for the moment touching an unfamiliar field. For his sake we expand the rule and allow subject headings with freedom when we are cataloguing any useful book written in one of the ordinary European languages, as for instance a useful treatise in German on relativity. One other situation leads us to insert freely a book in a foreign language, and that is when it at the same time relates in subject matter to the country or people speaking the language in which it is written. Thus a Portuguese book on Lisbon may receive a subject card, but a Portuguese book on London would not, unless special considerations make one particularly desirable. Even an undergraduate studying Italian literature may make good use of an Italian essay on Ariosto, but is little likely to read a German essay on the same subject, while a student of German literature will be just as little likely to read an Italian essay on Schiller.

"When it comes to the languages less frequently read, we make the subject heading the exception rather than the rule, for few of

our students who wish to read Polish history, for example, will know Polish. We have, to take a concrete illustration, a good collection of books in Russian and Polish, but it is meagerly represented by subject cards. This field is fairly well provided with bibliographical aids. The collection is in major part kept in one section of the stacks and is well classified. It is being accumulated for the use of the research student, and because of the languages involved the number who can use it is limited. It consists of long sets of archives, studies of minute events of history, statistical and descriptive works, political pamphlets, treatises and texts in the fields of theology and liturgy of the orthodox Greek church, and many similar works of the kind that go to form the baggage of a specialist in these subjects. The expense of recording these treatises under subject headings with Library of Congress fullness would be enormous, not only because of the language of the books, but because of the subjects involved. It is far better to put money into purchasing new books than into assigning subject headings. For a collection like this subject headings are limited to modern comprehensive treatises; to bibliographies, dictionaries, encyclopedias and other works of reference, to periodicals and at times to certain books which would otherwise be hard to trace because of complicated and obscure author headings. The classifier is moreover always cordial towards biography, and he would not pass over richly illustrated books, for a history of modern Russian art replete with reproductions will be interesting even to those who cannot read the inscriptions on the plates.

"As for pamphlets our 'selective' rules follow the same principles as for books, but with a greater limitation all along the line. English pamphlets should normally have no more than one subject card, and while books in the better known languages may be given subject headings with fair freedom, pamphlets in these same languages should be so treated only when there is a really good and sufficient reason, and pamphlets in the lesser languages ordinarily appear in the catalogue only under their authors' names." (The Librarians' Round Table. Selective Cataloguing. Cataloguers' Round Table. American Library Association, July 3, 1924. New York, 1928, pages 11–13.)

"The Harvard method of selective cataloguing distinguishes between the needs of two definite classes: on the one hand the undergraduate, with whom may be classed any person working in an unfamiliar field, and on the other hand the research man working in his own field and trained in ways of obtaining his materials. For the former it hopes to offer all that he needs, and to offer this to him in a way that is both concise and accessible. As to the latter, experience shows that he will not depend on the subject headings in the catalog. As practically worked out, the method results in free omission of subject headings for books in foreign languages, for out-of-date books, for obsolete editions, and for technical treatises on abstruse subjects; it inclines towards recording under the correct subject headings comprehensive treatises, books of general interest, and live material on clearly defined and especially on minute topics.

"Above all, our rules take into consideration the established fact that in our library the person sufficiently advanced has free access to an enormously large collection of books on all subjects, that these books are classified on the shelves with some degree of minuteness, and they presume on the part of the research student an acquaintance with the literature of his subject and an intimate knowledge and constant use of the bibliographies." (Id. pages 19–20.)

Not content to struggle with the daily flood of books that swept over his desk, he served as one of the collaborators on "Catalog Rules" (1908); compiled and edited the "Catalogue of Graduates of the Public Latin School in Boston, 1816–1917" (Boston, 1918); saw his "Bibliography of John Greenleaf Whittier" published by the Harvard University Press in 1937; this followed in 1937 by "Elizabeth Lloyd and the Whittiers; a Budget of Letters" edited by him.

He took his place as an assistant in the cataloguing work in December, 1894, and in 1902 was put "in charge of the catalogue department," a title he retained until 1913 when he was made an Assistant Librarian. In 1937 he was appointed Associate Librarian.

When he retired in September, 1940, he was given the title of

"Honorary Curator of New England Literature and Consultant in American Literary Bibliography in the University Library." In his study in the Widener building he now works on his bibliography of Oliver Wendell Holmes, a task probably extensive enough to busy him for a month or two. He was granted a year's leave of absence by the Corporation in 1939 to begin his work on the Holmes bibliography, and in 1940 received a grant from the Milton Fund to help him continue it.

One of his colleagues pictures the man admirably when he says that Currier's "success as a cataloguer was due to his devising of excellent methods, to his emphasis on essentials to the exclusion of unimportant details, and to his selection and treatment of the cataloguing staff. The budget for the catalogue department was always slim. I do not believe it exceeded $30,000 before 1925, and that for a staff of 50 or so. Up to the time he became Assistant Librarian a number of the women were working for no salary at all. It was due to Mr. Currier's efforts that that situation was changed and that better working conditions were provided. The loyalty and affection of his staff are a proof of his success.

"He tried to make the work more interesting for capable members of his staff by giving them more and more authority. In particular he tried to have them do order and reference work along with their cataloguing duties whenever possible. His main success along these lines was with the education, music, Slavic and Spanish collections.

"Dean Holmes supported him in his efforts to build up the education collection. The working collection is in the Education Library, but in Widener Mr. Currier set about building up a historical collection, emphasizing in particular official publications of American colleges and universities and also textbooks. The textbook collection numbers over 30,000 volumes.

"To see that the Slavic collection was better cared for Mr. Currier took courses at Harvard in Russian during 1896 and 1897."

And as an indication of interests beyond the limits of the Yard let it be here set down that he is a member of the American Library Institute, the Bibliographical Society of America, the

Friends' Historical Association, and the Appalachian Mountain Club. Also life member of the American Library Association.

When he finishes that record of the printed work of the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table some of his friends hope he may be induced to take time enough to set down his recollections of the changes he has seen in the Harvard Library. When he came to it in 1894 the reading room in Gore Hall was still practically the same as when the building had been first opened in 1841, a replica of King's College at Cambridge. It was in 1895 that the interior was ripped out to permit erection of stacks below with the reading room on top, little changed from then until the whole structure gave place to Widener in 1915.

He could reproduce for us as few now alive could do the sight of the stack room stretching out to the east after its erection in 1877 (as another innovation in American library practice), with the Louisbourg cross over the entrance (until it was stolen in October, 1895, fortunately coming back to University hands January 5, 1897, and now resting safely in the Treasure Room). He could tell us of the catalogue there to the left just inside the entrance; of the picture of Thomas Kiernan, he of the black cap sitting to the right between the two doors to the stacks on either side of the superintendent of circulation, the watch dog that knew by sight every professor and graduate entitled to enter the sacred stack rooms; of Justin Winsor driving up of a morning to stride into his workroom just back of the order room in the stacks, that study crammed and filled with those envelopes holding the notes that helped so mightily to make the *Narrative and Critical History of America* one of the great books of the century. He could tell us brave tales of John Fiske and Thomas Wentworth Higginson and Edward Everett Hale and William James and Josiah Royce and Francis James Child and — but why name the others? Let him bring them before our eyes and he will have one more reason for our bowing before him in gratitude.

THOMAS FRANKLIN CURRIER

AS SEEN BY HIS STAFF

COMPILED BY MILDRED M. TUCKER

"THE words of a young librarian from another part of the country, when she heard that I was on the staff of the Catalogue Department of the Harvard College Library, have often come to my mind. In a rather awestruck tone, but with unmistakable envy, she exclaimed: 'Then you work for Mr. Currier!'" So begins Miss Conklin's contribution to that more intimate side of Mr. Currier as seen by his own department, without which no picture of him can be complete. For who knew him better than that staff which during his years of service he built up to more than sixty strong, and which he kept to a high standard of intelligence and efficiency? We knew we were to be envied, for we worked with Mr. Currier as well as for him. Each of us had his individual place to fill, but we could reach the goal he set by our own method, if we could prove it wise and effective. And there is not one of us who has not known his kindness and his patience, or who has not been buoyed up by the quick working of his keen intelligence. We benefited by his economies of method and improvements in procedure, and, best of all, by his boundless enthusiasm for his own job and for the profession of "cataloguer" — a term which he felt was much too narrow in meaning to comprehend our work.

The turnover in Mr. Currier's staff was small except in the War years — we stayed for long terms of years, not from inertia, but because we felt that here under him we could grow and do our best work.

One member of the staff almost parallels Mr. Currier's years in the department, Miss Titus, who came less than two years after Mr. Currier and retired at the time he gave over the active administration of the department to Dr. Osborn. "First day at

Harvard College Library." So says Miss Titus's diary in faded ink under the date of April 2, 1896. The diary notes that "among the people I met on that memorable day was Mr. Currier. He inspired the sort of respect felt by a college freshman for a member of the junior class; he wasn't so far ahead of me as to be awesome, and he appeared benevolent, as well as experienced in library ways. In looking back over the many years of our association, my early impression seems prophetic.

"Under Mr. Currier the Catalogue Staff worked with a chief who constantly aimed to improve procedure. He has a natural gift for working economically, without the 'waste motion' deplored by writers on scientific management. Not all of us were so endowed, and he gave us the opportunity to find new applications of the old injunction: 'Make your head save your heels.'

"As the work of the department evolved into the large-scale operations of later years, our chief while planning these did not lose touch with individuals. At any time 'the boss' was ready to lend a hand in problems brought up for his advice. We had the benefit of his really uncanny ability to locate the difficulty, to put his finger on the book out of place, to open a reference book at the needed page. He had an invisible divining rod.

"The women of the staff were fortified by the certainty that the chief was their vigorous champion. One of my treasured souvenirs is a reprint of his article entitled: 'Petticoats at Harvard.' It was occasioned by an article in which Professor Hart had remarked that barring certain exceptions 'petticoats are considered to have no place in Harvard or a Harvard Catalogue.' Mr. Currier acknowledged that the statement was 'unfortunately only too true,' and went on to make what he described as 'a plea for fitting recognition of scholarly work efficiently and faithfully performed in our midst by an unrecognized body of experts.'

"Of course, we couldn't claim to be invariably scholarly or expert, but sometimes the failure had an endearing quality, as with the card for a series publication, which made sense to the initiated but needed a little clarification. It read: 'Occasional happy thoughts, ooo. No record kept by HCL. [With a manuscript note:] HCL has 2'.

"I can assure Mr. Currier that the years spent under his guidance have provided my memories with many more than two Happy Thoughts."

Mrs. Burroughs, whom we all remember best as Miss Wood, has a vivid recollection of her first meeting with Mr. Currier. She writes: "The more than twenty-five years that stretch between my first interview with Mr. Currier and the present time, have failed to blot out or change the impressions of that early meeting. I was applying for my first job, and he was 'sizing me up' with that quick grasp of essentials, mingled with kindliness and real interest, which characterized him and which were revealed by the piercing blue eyes, changing so rapidly from sternness to encouragement or to a twinkle of humorous appreciation.

"Once the position was secured, there was no chance to sink back and vegetate or rest on any laurels. I could have been satisfied usually with things as they were, but I, like others of his staff, found him at my elbow, inciting me to take a course that would help me advance, urging me to attend a library meeting, make a new history classification, or push the advantage of a contact with a professor which might be mutually helpful to the department and myself. There was always, in all dealings with Mr. Currier, the note of encouragement to make the most of oneself, and an expression of confidence in a person's capabilities that often helped to justify that belief.

"As I look back over the full and happy years spent under the supervision of that sympathetic yet compelling glance, the memories are all of a personality that, aiming at the attainment of splendid professional work, realized that attainment not only by his superb mental grasp of problems, but also by inspiring the devoted cooperation of his staff."

Miss Ford also speaks of his personality, and of his ability as an organizer: "It was a piece of good fortune to be able to work under a man with such a dynamic personality as that of Mr. Currier. He had great intellectual curiosity and great vision. The bigger and more complex the collection of books to be handled, the clearer seemed to be his idea of what should be done with it. One became convinced that with a talent for organization, he was a

natural born administrator. His desire to have an intelligent piece of work done led him to secure expert help and advice on every difficulty.

"It also was an inspiration to the members of his staff to read and to take courses, so that they might work with understanding of their subjects. Especially it made library work, little understood and much slandered, seem a vital thing, worth accepting as a life work. He was frank and whole hearted, with time for a cheerful word at work, and a friendly visit in off hours."

Can any one of us forget his energy and enthusiasm? Miss Briggs says: "My first and last impression of Mr. Currier was amazement and admiration of his energy and enthusiasm in all phases of work in the library. He seemed to be flashing round everywhere and nothing escaped his keen glance. Later he would casually drop some word or phrase to solve some puzzling question or clarify a view-point.

"He dearly delighted in overcoming the mechanical difficulties in working methods and in organizing swifter techniques for speeding up the routines. Each new piece of work was carefully planned out with the supervisor who would have charge of the project, and a written memorandum drawn up for future guidance.

"Over the years, it was interesting to watch the evolving emphasis in method, although the goal was always the same: a catalogue record that gave a concise, clear and sensible description of a title, on one card if possible. He was no stickler of form for form's sake.

"There was always a genuine interest in the staff and its problems — not only the merely professional phases. The older members felt perfectly free to appeal for help in solving perplexing questions. In his boyish enthusiasm we shared his successes and sometimes his disappointments. We worked hard and loved it — and there was never a dull moment."

Miss Nickerson and Miss Carter also speak of this enthusiasm. Miss Nickerson writes: "Sometimes when I entered Mr. Currier's office with a question that I expected him to answer briefly, my question would loose a flood of enthusiasm for doing the job more thoroughly, and after a half hour in which his nimble mind

expanded and developed his idea to the last detail, I would leave with twice as much work to do but with an enthusiasm equal to the task." Miss Carter remembers "Mr. Currier's hearty greeting to each member of the department as he made the rounds on the first morning after summer vacation. His next words usually were something like 'Well, are you all ready for a hard year's work?' — and abruptly the difficult mental transition from holiday to routine was an accomplished fact."

His personal vigor was a tonic, as Miss Wilde so aptly said: "The location of the Serial Division just outside Mr. Currier's office for so many years gave the members of the division evidence of Mr. Currier's tireless energy. Some mornings I would be planning the routine for the day, when through the stack doorway would come Mr. Currier with buoyant step on the way to his office. Somehow just that evidence of vigor and enthusiasm which was always apparent inspired and encouraged me."

I was especially glad when Miss Taylor and Mrs. Evarts acceded to my request for a few words about their work with Mr. Currier. Each had been associated with him in a "pet experiment" which exceeded the strict limits of Catalogue Department work, but which has worked out to the advantage of the library.

"My work as supervisor of the Education Collection," says Miss Taylor, "gave me opportunities for consultation with Mr. Currier on many problems which would not ordinarily be solved by the head of a catalogue department. After the initial collecting of the material and its classification, he watched enthusiastically for ways by which the collection could be built up, and his wide acquaintance among librarians of other colleges gave him opportunity to display tact in begging for free material and discretion in buying from very limited funds. Great was his pride when checking of booksellers' catalogues revealed how few important treatises were lacking from our shelves, but often the sight of a newly received early American textbook of far less monetary value, would give him as much pleasure.

"Although he was anxious to give the work as much personal supervision as his other duties would allow, he was willing to delegate to me responsibility for much of the work and was most

generous in assuring that due credit for such responsibility was received."

Mrs. Evarts' experience was very similar. She writes: "To work with Mr. Currier was an education and a pleasure. The human qualities which he was not afraid to bring to bear upon the work were an encouragement and inspiration. Out of his vast store of experience, he was ready to pass on to you even minute points which would be helpful, and how you lived to regret every instance when you thought it was not important to remember that hint.

"He developed in you the feeling that you were the responsible person for that particular field of work that had been assigned to you. You definitely had to prove to him, in action, your ability to do your task to his satisfaction — and how he watched you during the process! — but once he was convinced of it he was generous in his acknowledgment of your progress and achievement.

"How pleasant it was to have him bring to the Slavic Division interested visitors to whom he would explain the particular object he tried to achieve there. How amusing to hear him say to persons who claimed 'a cataloguing knowledge of Russian': 'Does that mean that you can read Russian proof?' And what do you think he once said to 'his' Russian cataloguer who raised objections to filing according to the Russian alphabet in the special trays in the Slavic Room? 'Well, I'm beginning to think you don't know the Russian alphabet.' But you did not mind it, for you could think of many words of approval that had been spoken before."

One of the economies most recently set on foot by Mr. Currier was "preliminary cataloguing," which is thought by many to be one of the best devices to save the time of high grade assistants. Mr. Nordbeck has had charge of this process for several years, and in his first busy weeks at Ford Andrews, has sent me the following: "No one who worked with T. F. C. while this method was in course of development, even if he were, like myself, a mere tyro, could fail to be impressed by the way in which he seized upon additional advantages and economies which were not at first apparent. Important among these advantages was the use made of

students available under the Temporary Student Employment Plan. In the work of preliminary searching, the abilities of students were used to the utmost, rather than dissipated in routine and clerical work. Three or four weeks as a preliminary searcher were an excellent introduction to the catalogue and the routine of the department, and it has now become customary for new members of the staff to take this introduction. The writer considers himself doubly fortunate to have commenced his work at Harvard as a preliminary searcher and under T. F. C.'s direction."

And what of myself and the others from whom I have not quoted? We all would sing the same song, perhaps in slightly different keys. But this paper would hardly be complete without a word from Mrs. Hazleton, who as Miss Hook, was Mr. Currier's secretary for several years — years which gave her "the opportunity of knowing him as a good friend and wise counselor. He always gave generously of his knowledge, and extended a kindly word of sympathy when needed. Many were spurred on to further effort by an expression of confidence or approval from him."

I had intended that the closing words should be my own, but Miss Conklin has said it so much better than I could that I quote from her again: "We who were privileged to be members of the Catalogue Department staff during his efficient administration not only could appreciate his reputation as an authority in the library profession, but were constantly aware of his wide knowledge of many subjects and of the accuracy of his mental recordings of innumerable details in the library work. Working with him as well as for him gave us valuable experience. Having gained so much ourselves under Mr. Currier's leadership, we rejoice that both the library profession and the literary field can continue to benefit from the products of his ever-active brain and untiring research."

THE NEW RARE BOOK LIBRARY

BY WILLIAM A. JACKSON

AT this writing, the framework and floor-slabs are all in and the walls are done to the cornices. The roof will soon follow; while the interior walls, stacks, woodwork and finish are in hand to begin. Barring unforeseen difficulties, the new library building will open early next fall. Then, for the first time, the Harvard Library will be equipped to care for its treasures as they deserve.

One does not need the Chamber of Commerce signs at the gates of Cambridge to realize that this academic community is also the third largest industrial city of New England, for the dirt and grit that one finds in the stacks of Widener is patent testimony. Likewise, more destructive to books though less visible, the acid and other gases which are the by-product of our factories and our traffic have hitherto been wafted through our halls along with the intellectual effluvium more appropriate to a university atmosphere. In our new building the dirt as well as the noxious gases will be eliminated by means of the air-conditioning equipment — or at least so the engineers have assured us. For all the air entering the building will be not only washed and filtered, but will pass through a mysterious apparatus called an electrical precipitator which will remove even invisible foreign particles. It will then be cooled or heated, as the need may be, and humidified to a constant standard which will do much to preserve the leather and vellum of the bindings. The double glazed windows and the heavy cork insulation will, we have reason to think, enable us to maintain conditions which will as nearly as practicable duplicate those which have so perfectly preserved the libraries in English country houses and Tyrolian monasteries.

The ingenuity with which the architects and engineers have distributed and concealed the air-ducts throughout the building is astonishing to a layman. Likewise amazing is the size and in-

tricacy of the apparatus for cleaning and circulating the air which is installed in unused space in the Widener basement.

A good deal of thought and experiment has gone into the design of the shelving. Various plastics were considered and discarded. Patent leather, slightly padded after the manner of the cases in the Grenville Room, was investigated. Finally, steel shelves with specially rounded edges and reinforced internally, were chosen. These shelves will be enameled, baked and rubbed four times until they are very nearly as smooth as polished glass, and will not abrade the tenderest leather. The supporting uprights were also especially designed so that there would be no projecting rough parts or sharp edges which might scratch or injure a book. If these shelves prove, in use, as suitable for their purpose as we confidently expect, they will represent a considerable advance in the design of rare book shelving.

No doubt, when our books are at last so magnificently housed, we shall realize how much repairing and casing some of them need, and deserve. For this purpose, a room has been set aside where such work can be carried on, and in it will be placed the gas chambers, thymol cabinets, and other instruments of the expert repairer of books and manuscripts.

Under present conditions it is impossible to state just when the building will be ready for use, but it is hoped that before the beginning of the fall term the books will have been transferred and much of the building opened to the public. A program of exhibitions and receptions is being planned to demonstrate the beauty and utility of the arrangements. Of course these will be subject to the then "state of the nation."

THE NEW RARE BOOK LIBRARY

View of the East Front

THE NEW RARE BOOK LIBRARY

The air-conditioning ducts before being furred-in

TWO YEARS OF BOOKS BY BARTER

BY WALTER W. WRIGHT

THERE are three methods by which libraries acquire materials: purchase, gift, and exchange. The history of this last mentioned procedure in the Harvard College Library dates back some hundred years, as the following letter in the Harvard University Archives, from Librarian Harris, suggests:

"Cambridge, April 30, 1844.
(and subsequently)

"Dear Sir.

As the accumulation, in the Public Library of the University, of *duplicates that cannot be alienated*, is a evil to be avoided as much as possible, I have sought and obtained permission from several persons, who, at various times have given books & pamphlets to the Library, to exchange or otherwise dispose of such of them as may happen to be duplicates. If you are willing to grant the same authority to the librarian, in regard to your own liberal donations, will you please to sign the following permit, & thus oblige

Yours, most respectfully,
Thaddeus William Harris."

Following, in Harris's hand, is a paragraph which is in turn signed by twelve men, including five successive presidents of Harvard:

"We The Subscribers hereby authorize the Librarian of the Public Library of Harvard University to exchange or otherwise dispose of any books or pamphlets, given by us to the Library, which may prove to be duplicates, at his own discretion, & whenever convenient, so as *thereby to increase the number of works in the Library*: credit to be given, to the several donors, for all works, obtained by means of said duplicates, thus disposed of by the librarian: and this authority, from us, to be prospective as well as retrospective."

This letter is one of the earliest recognitions, among Harvard Library papers, that an exchange procedure might profitably increase the Library resources.

Although there has been some exchange activity in the Harvard College Library for a century, the prosecution of such a method of adding to the Library's collections has been neglected in recent years. It must not be forgotten, though, that Mr. William H. Tillinghast, assistant librarian from 1887 to 1913, was very much interested in exchanges, and, in addition to his regular duties, conducted an active correspondence with other institutions. To him must go credit for establishing many of the exchanges still being carried on. Following Mr. Tillinghast's death interest waned, and recent librarians have preferred to purchase materials. Correspondence relating to publications, and proposals for exchange have, during this period, been referred to the appropriate department outside the Library.

On September 1, 1938, an assistant was appointed to coördinate the exchange activities of the University Library. The need of some such agent is shown in a letter addressed to President Lowell by the librarian of a foreign university, in which he speaks of the difficulty of arranging an exchange relationship with the Harvard Library: " . . . The great inconvenience which the lack of this valuable series inflicts upon us cannot be resolved by the expression — however courteously phrased — of the Librarian's regret that he can do nothing for the present to assist us . . . I submit for your consideration that the attitude which Harvard seems to have taken in the matter is scarcely consistent with the spirit of mutual confidence, or with that willingness to observe agreements entered upon in good faith which must underlie the international exchange of publications, the rapid development of which in our time has been of such benefit to all concerned." Continued acceptance of materials sent to Harvard on exchange involved an obligation on the part of the Library to make equivalent return to the other libraries which treated it with such favor. The time had come to stop replying to the requests from these very institutions that unfortunately the publications they desired were not available on exchange.

The task of coördinating exchange activities in the College Library so as to suggest a central intelligence was not difficult. The Registrar's office turned over both the mailing of the several

Harvard series with which the Library was supplied for exchange purposes, and control of the surplus Harvard University Press publications. The Order Department had been keeping records of piece-for-piece and priced exchanges for several years. These exchanges had arisen in the normal course of events, and, in a number of instances, involved large lots of material. The Catalogue Department, following a subject rather than functional division of activity, had conducted exchanges for educational, Slavic, and Latin American material. The exchange assistant took over some, and coöperated with the remainder of these activities. He also took an increasing interest in the duplicates of Harvard material shelved in the Archives, and in such duplicates returned to the Order Department for disposal as would serve his purposes. The exchange assistant was thus in a position to know what was being done throughout the College Library, and to assume a comfortable share of these exchange responsibilities.

Two years ago, a stock-room was set up in the Library basement. In addition to duplicate Harvard material already on hand, some 21,435 volumes, covering 138 titles, of Harvard University Press publications were transferred to this area. These titles represented a stock of worth-while material on which the original sales value had ceased. The books have been invaluable for exchange purposes. There have been numerous extensions of the Library's relations with other institutions at home and abroad. The latter were proving especially profitable, when the war brought a stop to many arrangements so propitiously initiated. For example, in December 1938, a continuing exchange was established with the University of Lwow in Poland. A few months later Poland was invaded. Again, on the day that the Low Countries were invaded, among the packages withdrawn from the Library's European shipments was one addressed to the library of the University of Louvain in Belgium.

Coördination of the exchange activities of the departmental and special libraries, and the publication offices proved to be no easy task. Indeed, substantial progress in this direction will come from well-considered mutual effort as the years pass. Early in the academic year 1938–1939 a visit was made to all the offices which

issue serial publications, to learn what was being done with exchanges. These visits, also, netted much information about the publications of the University. In all, about 101 publications (excluding annual reports) are issued by 46 offices. Of these about 13 are mailed regardless of exchange, and about 45, issued by 28 offices, are used for exchange purposes. The remainder — some 43 publications — are not distributed gratis. In most cases the departmental library cares for the material received in exchange for the departmental publications which it offers, though in a few instances it is transferred to the College Library. Of the 28 offices that distribute on exchange, about two thirds do not know what is received in return for their material without checking their card catalogues; a third have their exchanges under full control. The possibility of establishing exchanges, consciously and logically conducted, should receive the consideration of those offices which have hitherto made no such arrangements.

Evidence of the lack of coördination which the exchange activity attempts to improve showed itself in an instance involving one of the series issued at Harvard. The publishers, the Harvard University Press, referred inquiries to the committee which financed the publishing. The committee, in turn, although it had paid for the volumes published to that date in the series, felt that the decision regarding exchange distribution rested with the department under whose auspices the volumes were prepared; and this department referred the exchange assistant back to the Press and to the committee. Eventually a decision was reached. Most of the valuable Harvard series are owned by the different departments of the University, and they naturally are reluctant to give away material which they hope to sell.

The Harvard University Library, comprising over seventy-five separate units, cannot be considered a completely coördinated entity. Many of the libraries which have grown up through the years have developed some activities of their own which function with no reference to the Harvard College Library. Exchanges proved to be a case in point. To be sure, many of these exchanges were conducted thoroughly and adequately under the former arrangement, but other libraries found more coöperation with

the central office profitable not only to themselves but to the University Library as a whole. Clearly, the exchange office will be better equipped to make the proper evaluations of exchange materials when it knows what is being received and sent, all over the University. And it will be the better able to conclude effective arrangements when a departmental library is willing to have publications issued from its offices used to balance materials received in another. At present no central mailing bureau is contemplated, though such a bureau, if ever established, would profitably centralize considerable energy. Our emphasis, however, is wholly on coördination.

One may properly inquire about achievements to date. Naturally, they have been most apparent in the College Library. Their extent has varied according to the circumstances among the departmental libraries. In the latter category much is still nebulous and has to be recorded in less tangible terms. In the College Library, however, during the year 1939–1940, the exchange assistant was responsible for the acquisition of some 24,608 items, which included 16,843 periodical pieces, 4803 volumes, and 2962 pamphlets and maps. Nor does this include all exchange material received in the Library; for many items are received by the Registrar and recorded by him as gifts. In the past decade several libraries removed the Harvard College Library from their mailing lists because nothing was being received by them from Harvard. It is satisfying to record that these institutions have now restored Harvard to their lists. Further new and extended relations with other libraries have been mutually beneficial.

The experience of the past two years shows exchange activity to be a profitable one; by it material is added to the Library collections at a less cost than purchase would involve, and much material is added that cannot be obtained in the trade. To the Library's continuing efforts directed toward handling the whole problem of exchanges intelligently, the attention of interested readers of these *Notes* is cordially invited.

HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES

C. E. WALTON EDITORS GERTRUDE M. SULLIVAN

SINCE university librarians are given to explaining to university presidents the organization and needs of their library systems, the fact is of more than ordinary significance that at the first dinner meeting of the 1939–40 season of the Harvard Library Club one university president turned the tables and spoke on the very subject which engages our day-to-day attention. For those of us who have no part in major events within the University, it was pleasant to hear President Conant begin with an acknowledgment of the University's obligation to the large number of library workers whose efforts contribute so distinctly towards making the Harvard Library what it is. Seldom does a university president comprehend so specifically the library problem confronting him, and not within recent memory has a Harvard President begun with a more charming word of introduction.

The substance of the discourse is reported by the President of the Library Club and need not be repeated here. But the larger aspects of the Library's relation to the University community and to the administration merit more serious attention, and in consequence were underscored quite particularly. One feels inclined to appreciate the need for some definite co-ordination in the eighty separate units which today comprise the Harvard University Library. An equal need for co-ordination in the University as a whole, and President Conant's striking analogy between that aspect of the larger problem and a similar aspect of the Library problem, leads one to the conclusion that very possibly we have here one of those administrative policies of decentralized co-ordination which will characterize his tenure of office.

We must keep in mind, however, that the Jeffersonian maxim that all powers not specifically delegated to the central government are reserved to the several states or to the people has

characterized the library philosophy of the Harvard community for over a century and a half. The excellence of the book collections of our various independent libraries, such as those of the Law School and of the Business School, results very largely from their independence of a central authority, since controlling complicated activities from a distance has never been entirely successful. While one may agree that co-ordination is a pressing need in the Harvard Library system, a more definite approach to the problem raises questions difficult to answer. What kind of co-ordination? How far can co-ordination be carried?

For many years when Eliot was President, faced with the same problem on a wider scale, the University administration hung suspended in air, its expenses paid by pro-rated contributions from the several departments. Not until the appointment as Comptroller of Frederick Sumner Mead in 1920, and the adoption of a central budget system in the fall of 1921 (one year before the approval of the first budget for the Federal Government) was an answer found. Perhaps some similar solution will one day present itself as a possible means of co-ordinating the University Library system.

Thomas Franklin Currier

"Thoughtful rebels," the President has said, are necessary to the healthy growth of the University. In the days when cataloguers were storing their waterproofs and rubbers behind the books in crowded Gore Hall, and when Mr. Lane occasionally despaired of keeping the Library accounts in balance, Thomas Franklin Currier must have seemed the determined personification of that apt phrase.

Once a generation has passed, however, it is never possible to recapture completely the spirit of its problems; but it is fitting to emphasize how thoughtful a rebel he had indeed to be in that day, to begin so vigorously and with such force of character those fundamental changes in our Library economy which, today, we take as our customary way of life.

Thomas Franklin Currier's retirement as Associate Librarian in charge of Cataloguing and Classification marked the end of an era in the Library's history. In many ways he has impressed his colleagues as the John Langdon Sibley of his day. Now, however, the investment in libraries, and in their books and services, and the complications of maintaining both at a level necessary to insure satisfaction result in very considerable expense. More than a moderate amount of experiment to test the convictions of any one librarian will probably not prove as characteristic of our day as it was of Mr. Currier's. We have come, whether we like it or no, to that point where progress may most easily be had by compromise: where our critics may thus accuse us, as they sometimes do, of administration by appeasement.

Yankee shrewdness and a Puritan conscience were promising portents for a librarian who was to begin his intellectual development under Charles William Eliot. Reared in this atmosphere, it is not strange that Mr. Currier's career has established him as an individualist and as a fighter for principle.

Those innovations in library practice which are most likely to bear the stamp of his name attempt the solution of complex problems in a search for simple principles. Probably the most significant results of this philosophy are, first, his belief that cataloguing and classification might be made into a species of bibliographical editing by subject experts; and second, his development of the famous Harvard process of preliminary cataloguing. These he stoutly defended against all opposition until the record of their service had established their importance to library science.

His colleagues will remember the many conferences with him during the course of which they have never found him other than a straight-forward and candid commentator upon many aspects of library service, who found it necessary to state his opinion of the truth, even when it hurt. As we look back upon these years, and as we reflect upon the number of such conferences and their stimulating results, intellectually and professionally, we have good reason to feel that something we may never experience again has passed from the picture in the Harvard College Library.

The Library Club

The Harvard University Library Club, under the direction of Miss E. Louise Lucas, Librarian of the Fogg Museum, opened its 1939–1940 season auspiciously with a November meeting at which President Conant and Mr. Metcalf were the speakers. The enthusiasm of the membership of the Club was shown by its attendance at the meeting, two hundred strong.

Mr. Conant spoke informally of Harvard University and its organization, mentioning that most of the changes which now make it such a complicated organization have come in the last hundred years. The University is composed of ten separate faculties and thirty budgetary units. Now that we are at the end of the one hundred year period of rapid increase, the problem, Mr. Conant asserted, is how to keep alive both the spirit of optimistic adventure which came with that growth, and the flexibility which it produced. Before 1869, the general spirit within the University was one of decentralization, but, with the advent of President Eliot, the feeling changed, and the separate units began to come together again. One of the chief tasks of the University is to keep a balance between centralization of the organization as a whole, and enough independence of the separate units so that each may have room for growth and change.

Mr. Conant pointed to the organization of the Library as a symbol of the organization of the whole University. Here there has been no effort to regiment all the units and to put them in one spot, for no one Library dominates the rest, but each is accessible to the others and to the students.

Looking to the future, the Library cannot stand still. It is, next to the human element, the most important commitment of the University. There cannot be a single year of economy, Mr. Conant recognized, which does not leave a permanent scar. Fortunately, however, we are not at the end of the period of endowed universities. With the help of the friends of the individual departments and libraries, he said, we shall harbor the resources of the University so that there will be no scars. We shall keep the flexibility of the individual parts by separate budgetary and ad-

ministrative organizations, but each unit will be a part of the centralized University Library.

Following Mr. Conant, Mr. Metcalf spoke of the size of the Harvard University Library in relation to other libraries in this country and in Europe. The Harvard Library is composed of eighty separate administrative units, a striking example of what Mr. Conant termed "coördinated decentralization." Because it is good to have books where they are convenient to museums and laboratories, these units are kept separate in spite of added staff demands and increased expense. The union catalogue and the messenger service are the two chief means of coördinating these separate libraries.

Mr. Metcalf then listed some of the problems of a university library, among them coördination, finance, and service to readers; this last including book selection, cataloguing, and space. The problem of space at Widener will have to be solved soon, Mr. Metcalf stated, and this can be done in one of four ways: by discarding some of the unnecessary duplicate books, by building a warehouse for little used books, by adding a wing to Widener, or by building an annex. Further developments of these plans, since the Library Club meeting, are mentioned elsewhere in this issue of the *Notes*.

At the February meeting, Mr. Dumas Malone, Director of the Harvard University Press, spoke about the problems that confront a scholarly press, and some of those that are faced by the Harvard University Press in particular. Mr. Malone drew the distinction between the two phases of the Press activity, printing and publishing, and described the distribution of the Press overstock to small libraries in other parts of the country. His talk appropriately directed the attention of Club members to a department of the University that shares a common point of interest with librarians in the world of books.

The Library Club had as its guest in March, Mr. Bernard Knollenberg, Librarian of Yale University. Mr. Knollenberg told some of his experiences as a newcomer at Yale in attempting to bring about coördination of the Yale Library. In the discussion which followed his talk, Mr. Knollenberg aptly turned the tables, and

asked instead of answered questions, with the happy result that not only did he learn about the Harvard attempts towards co-ordination through the union catalogue, the messenger service, and the Library Club, but Harvard staff members learned something as well.

At the last dinner meeting in May, Mr. Henry W. Holmes, Dean of the School of Education, and the newly appointed chairman of the University Committee on Educational Relations, conceived a national system of public education, which would, as he has also stated in the *Atlantic*, attempt to find for every individual the best enlargement of his powers. To the ideal that school teaching should be looked upon as a profession of the highest possible performance, Mr. Holmes added the statement of Professor Whitehead that "the Periclean ideal is action weaving itself into a texture of persuasive beauty analogous to the delicate splendor of nature."

The business meeting of the Club was held in June in the large hall of the Germanic Museum where refreshments were served. The Faber du Faur Library in the Museum was open for inspection, and Dr. Curt von Faber du Faur was a gracious host to his guests. Following the reading of reports, officers for the coming year were elected as follows: President, Mr. Walter W. Wright; Secretary, Miss Dorcas M. Bishop; Treasurer, Mrs. Evelyn J. Draper; Members of the executive committee, Professor Henry J. Cadbury, Mr. Robert H. Haynes, Mrs. Georgiana A. Hinckley, and Miss Natalie N. Nicholson.

WALTER W. WRIGHT

The untimely death of Alice Boyd Wilde on the nineteenth of March brought to the Harvard College Library the loss of a competent supervisor of the Serial Division, and of a friend to many on the Library staff. Her faithful service and devotion to the Library for nearly thirty years, and her major part in the development of the division to one of considerable usefulness and activity, have been appreciated not only by those to whom she was responsible and persons working under her supervision, but also by members of other departments with whom she had daily contacts. Her generous, kindly nature endeared her to her friends. Her delight in outdoor exercise and her vigorous activity during library hours were a marvel to less hardy observers. They were, therefore, entirely unprepared for the sudden failure in health which eventually deprived the library profession of one of its most loyal members, and the Harvard College Library staff of a valued associate.

D. G. C.

August 18, 1940

Editor
Harvard Library Notes

Dear Sir:

Allow me to correct a statement in my article, "The First Bulgarian Book" in the last issue of the *Harvard Library Notes*. The 58 Bulgarian tracts in the Yale Divinity School Library, referred to as missing, have been located. At least 30 of them were printed before 1877 and therefore belong in my classification of Bulgarian "incunabula."

JAMES F. CLARKE

Dr. Hilmar H. Weber, a member of the Order Department staff from September 1937, passed away on May 7, 1940, after a long illness. Dr. Weber graduated from Harvard in the class of 1911 and at commencement, 1930, received the degree of Ph.D. in the Mediaeval History of Germany. In 1931 he offered his services to the Library, and served without remuneration in the capacity of bibliographical adviser for six years. The greater part of his time during that period he devoted to the preparing of two check lists, one of the English Newsbooks of 1641 to 1666, and the other of the English Newspapers of 1666 to 1714. As assistant in the Order Department he was the specialist in his own field, German History, and also built up the Library's Military History collection, especially that part relating to the German Army.

Miss Ethel Magrath, who succeeded Mrs. Milner in 1937 as Librarian of the Farnsworth Room, died on July 12, 1940 in a Brookline hospital. Before coming to the Library Miss Magrath spent the years from 1920 to 1935 as secretary to the Director of the Harvard University Press.

Her work here seldom gave her an opportunity to meet other members of the staff, but those who frequented the Farnsworth Room found her always pleasant and cheery. To us who knew her a mention of Miss Magrath brings a recollection of a slight, active person whose keen mind and bright countenance have many times, in a brief greeting, left a vivid impression with us.

THE FRANCES BLACKLER KENNEDY MEMORIAL COLLECTION OF LAFCADIO HEARN

BY HARRIS KENNEDY

O eyes that saw for half the world, I pray,
What wondrous vista didst thou see to-day;
What tints of amber with the dawn begun?
What shades of purple when the day was done?

O eyes that saw for half the world, behold,
Our gaze is shortened since thy eyes are cold:
Where is the glorious mirage on life's sea —
O where the gleaming light which beckoned thee?

O eyes that saw for half the world to-day,
We glory with thee that thy tent of clay
Is rent asunder; that thy vision clear
Can ever range untrammeled *There* as Here.

Lafcadio Hearn by RUTH STERRY [1]

NOW that the cataloguing of the Lafcadio Hearn Collection in the College Library has been completed, and its rarities placed on exhibition, a sketch of the history of its growth may be found of interest.

From 1879 to 1882, Kun-hua Ko was instructor in Chinese in Harvard College. One day, about 1881, Professor Ko with a young son came to call upon my parents, and while the elders entertained Professor Ko, his son joined the children in the nursery. This visit still remains a vivid picture in my memory — such silks in the clothing of a man had never been present in my youthful imagination. Here was my first intimate glimpse of the Far East.

Professor Ko came to Harvard on a five year appointment, but died suddenly of pneumonia in 1883, and after his death his wife

[1] From Overland Monthly, San Francisco, Feb., 1907, p. 179.

and children returned to China. But we as a family never forgot this first visit, and the remembrance of it awakened in us a keen interest in China and her people. It was natural, therefore, that we became familiar with the *Travels in Tartary, Thibet, and China* of M. Huc, and *The Middle Kingdom* by S. Wells Williams.

In 1890 Harvard College had a remarkable group of Japanese students, two of whom visited us frequently. They were Seihin Ikeda and Mishitaro Hisa. Mr. Hisa's death in 1902 cut short a most promising career. Mr. Ikeda went into banking in the Osaka branch of the Mitsui Ginko whose home office was in Tokyo, and eventually became head of the combined Mitsui holdings. On his retirement at seventy, he was at once appointed Minister of Finance.

In college days we had many good times together, and our friendship continued after graduation. When in this country Ikeda always came to see the family, and in 1902 and again in 1904 he and his wife and her mother entertained us. When Hearn's first book on Japan appeared in 1894 it was a natural thing for our household to have a copy; and many passages were read aloud. This was true of the whole series from 1894 to 1906. Such was the background of my Lafcadio Hearn collecting, which in time became a matter of absorbing interest.

The Life and Letters of Lafcadio Hearn by Elizabeth Bisland, published in 1906, created a new interest in his works. Many of Hearn's early Americana were not known until this book came out because his name did not appear on them: *La Cuisine Creole*, *Gombo Zhèbes*, the *Historical Sketch Book and Guide to New Orleans and Environs*, all issued in 1885 by Will H. Coleman, New York. *La Nouvelle Atala* by Chahta-Ima, New Orleans, 1879, is our first Hearn in book form. *Some Chinese Ghosts*, 1887, was rare from the start, as was *Stray Leaves from Strange Literature*, 1884.

In 1908 Dr. George M. Gould published in Philadelphia *Concerning Lafcadio Hearn*, which included a bibliography by Laura Stedman. Here was a new source for Hearn items. With the Japanese series, published by Houghton, Mifflin and Company and Little, Brown, and Company, 1894–1906, well in hand, the earlier works had to be sought after, and it became my habit to

make the rounds of the old bookstores of Boston at least once a month with an eye out for Japan, China, and Hearn. When P. K. Foley published his work on American first editions it seemed that no buyer wanted anything but a first edition. This helped the Collection by allowing many editions to be secured for a trifle.

Many of my friends thought it strange that anything with the name Hearn was grist to my mill. Why have several copies of the same book? But to me they were not identical, and I wanted all varieties. As these editions grew in number, other phases of collecting developed. Most of Hearn's books from 1894 to 1905 had come out as articles in the *Atlantic Monthly*. These were "first appearances" and desirable. After several different hunts in New York, one day when I asked about old *Atlantics* the reply came, "Guess this time I can give you anything you want. I just got in three taxi loads." As he read my "want list" the dealer said, "You are collecting Lafcadio Hearn." I replied, "Yes. If you have anything on your list which is not on mine, I want it." The result was forty-six numbers of the *Atlantic Monthly* in original wrappers as issued — a banner day!

If *Atlantics*, why not *Harper's Weekly* and the *Bazar* and *Monthly* as well? It was to take nearly thirty years to secure sixteen numbers of the *Weekly* and four *Bazars* (note this spelling used on the magazine). Of course, the set of *Harper's Monthly* was a much easier matter.

The Stedman bibliography of Hearn was getting old. To bring it up to date I made a check list on cards, listing everything under Hearn in *Poole's Index* and the *Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature*. What a list! It was a real thrill when the "haves" outnumbered the "wants."

In 1933 the F. W. Faxon Company of Boston published a small bibliography compiled by Martha Howard Sisson. The next year P. D. and Ione Perkins published their four hundred page book *Lafcadio Hearn: A Bibliography of His Writings*. This book was a joy; but it certainly was a staggering blow when the collector, who thought he was doing pretty well by his own list of "wants," realized how much he had missed. Up to this time many Hearn items otherwise unknown were found by consulting cards of

small libraries where, for example, *The Shelburne Essays* would be listed, and a card put in the file for each separate title. The Perkins work made this unnecessary. Many of the titles in Perkins had been unearthed prior to the year 1934, but the quest for some of them is still going on.

My search now turned to Hearn's translations from the French: Gautier, *One of Cleopatra's Nights and Other Fantastic Romances*, 1882; France, *The Crime of Sylvestre Bonnard*, 1890; Flaubert, *The Temptation of St. Anthony*, 1910. Translations of Loti, de Maupassant and Zola, and *Sketches and Tales from the French*, all collected from Hearn's newspaper work in the 1870's and 1880's, were published in Japan.

About this time I developed a desire to find out into what languages Hearn had been translated. I found French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Swedish, Danish and Japanese. Many of these translations were secured in this country or imported for me, but the Swedish and Danish were the result of a trip to Göteborg, Stockholm, Upsala, Helsinki and Copenhagen in 1936. A few of the Spanish ones were found on a trip to Santiago, Chile, in 1935. Guayaquil, Ecuador, yielded two Spanish volumes in paper, *Kwaidan*, Madrid, Calpe, [1922], and *El Romance de la Vía Láctea*, Calpe, 1921; and *Chita*, Madrid, 1918, was found behind the University, in Santiago, Chile.

Stockholm was rich in Swedish translations by Karin Hirn. Professor Yrjō Hirn had been for twenty years Librarian at the Helsinki University Library in Finland, and his wife was the first to translate Lafcadio Hearn into Swedish (which is the cultural language of South Finland). I took the night boat from Stockholm to Åbo, and went by rail to Helsinki. There Professor Hirn was at the station to welcome me, and I spent the evening with him and his wife and daughter. Next morning we saw the Library and the University, as well as the Russian Library, which rivals Prague, and a large bookstore where I secured many items.

Professor Hirn gave me much of his time, as well as several books, and was a great help at the Library Bookstore. Here I bought *Japanesiska Studier och Skizzer* by Konni Zilliacus, and the

life of Zilliacus written by Herman Gummerus, and at the suggestion of the clerk in the store the publishers later sent me three volumes of Zilliacus' *Vandringsar* (A Trip Around the World). Until then all that I had known about his connection with Hearn was a reference in Bisland's *Life and Letters*. The most wonderful acquisition, however, was a copy, in perfect condition, of Hearn's translation of *One of Cleopatra's Nights*, a sixpenny railroad edition purchased by Professor Hirn at the station in London some twenty-five years before. This was a noble prize. Karin Hirn autographed all the first editions of her books for me, and where Professor Hirn had written the preface, he, too, autographed them.

After a lunch with Professor and Mrs. Hirn, we ran for the three o'clock train to catch the boat from Åbo back to Stockholm. Here a few hours were spent gathering up what my searchers had collected for me. One clerk brought in his own copy of three volumes translated by Karin Hirn into Swedish, in a Japanese style binding. He said it was rare and that I would not have time to find it before leaving for home; he could later secure another copy for himself. These were two volumes of *Exotica*, 1903, and *Spöken och Drömmar Från Japan*, 1904. The first edition of these three volumes came out in paper covers in 1901, 1903, and 1904.

Japan has been faithful to Hearn's memory. In September, 1940, the Imperial Government took over his old home at Matsue as a national treasure, thus assuring its perpetuation. The Hokuseido Press has issued a considerable series of Hearn's books, and collected and edited with care whatever it has undertaken. All Hearn collectors are deeply indebted to Mr. Y. Nakatsuki, proprietor of the Press, who was a close friend of Mitchell McDonald, Hearn's literary executor.

The first project of the Hokuseido Press was the "Hearn Memorial Translations," 1920–1923, comprising nine volumes with English and Japanese text on opposite pages: *Diaries & Letters*, *Impressions of Japan*, *Letters from Tokyo*, *Kokoro*, *Insect Literature*, *Sea Literature*, *On Literature*, *Island Voyages* and *Kwaidan*.

From 1871 to 1877 Hearn did newspaper work in Cincinnati for the *Enquirer* and the *Commercial*; in New Orleans from 1877 to 1887 he wrote for the *City Item*, the *Democrat* and the *Times-*

Democrat; and in Yokohama, for the *Japan Mail*, 1891–1894. His work for the *Kobe Chronicle* has been reprinted in *Editorials from the Kobe Chronicle* [New York, 1913]. *Letters from Shimane and Kyūshū*, Kyoto, 1934, an edition of 100 copies, is made up of articles from the *Japan Weekly Mail*. Of the newspaper work by Hearn special mention should be made of *Creole Sketches*, 1924, edited by Charles Woodward Hutson and illustrated by Hearn's drawings, all from his work on the *New Orleans Item*; and *Editorials*, 1926, also edited by Hutson, containing about eighty editorials from the *New Orleans Item* and the *New Orleans Times-Democrat*, written between 1878 and 1887.

In the realm of Hearn's letters we have grown richer each year. Bisland's *Life and Letters* was published in 1906; Bronner's *Letters from the Raven* appeared in 1907; Gould's *Concerning Lafcadio Hearn* was published in 1908. Since then we have had: Bisland's *Japanese Letters*, 1910; Kennard's *Lafcadio Hearn* (containing some letters from Hearn to his half-sister, Mrs. Atkinson), 1911; Tinker's *Lafcadio Hearn's American Days*, 1924; Ishikawa's *Some New Letters and Writings of Lafcadio Hearn*, 1925; *Letters to a Pagan*, 1933; *Letters from B. H. Chamberlain to Lafcadio Hearn*, 1936, edited by Kazuo Koizumi (Hearn's eldest son); and in 1937, *More Letters from B. H. Chamberlain to Lafcadio Hearn*, also edited by Koizumi. In these last two volumes we have the only example of both sides of Hearn's correspondence.

One is tempted to list a few of the rarities in the main body of the Collection. There are three issues of the 1884 edition of *Stray Leaves from Strange Literature*; three different colors in the bindings of *Gombo Zhèbes* — one copy with an inscription by Will H. Coleman, 1885, and two with water stains from a fire in the bindery; four different bindings of the 1887 edition of *Some Chinese Ghosts*; ten first editions of *Youma, the Story of a West-Indian Slave*, eight of which are bound in blue and white Japanese cotton crepe, each with a different design, as well as one each in blue and red cloth; *La Nouvelle Atala*, 1879, in paper covers, one copy each in blue, yellow, and brown; the first printing by Will H-Coleman (sic), and two printings of F. F. Hansell & Bro.'s second edition of *La Cuisine Creole*; *Letters from Tokyo*, 1920, with

a presentation inscription by Mitchell McDonald; the yellow cloth binding of *Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan*, 1895; *Kotto*, 1902, showing examples of the first printing with the design on the title page upside down, and later corrections of this error; *Out of the East*, 1895, three printings on different weights of paper; the limited edition of Bisland's *Life and Letters of Lafcadio Hearn*, 1906, with a page of Hearn manuscript inserted; a copy of *Concerning Lafcadio Hearn*, [1908], by George M. Gould, with Gould's presentation inscription to Laura B. Starr; a complete set of the nine volumes comprising the *Hearn Memorial Translations*; the limited edition of the *Writings*, 1922, published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, with a page of Hearn manuscript in the first volume; and all three editions of *The Complete Works of Koizumi Yakumo*, in Japanese, eighteen volumes, published in 1926–1928, 1929–1930 and 1930–1932.

The most personal volume in the collection is *Japanese Goblin Poetry*, rendered into English by Lafcadio Hearn and illustrated by his own drawings, compiled by his son, Kazuo Koizumi, and published by Oyama in Tokyo, 1934, edition limited to 500 copies. This is the volume published on the thirtieth anniversary of Hearn's death. It consists of reproductions of original manuscripts and drawings. Mention should also be made of these special items: a photostat of *A Midsummer Trip to the West Indies*, reprinted from *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, Trinidad, The Caxton Press, [1891], of which the only known copy is in the British Museum; *Kusa-Hibari*, from the book *Kotto*, Montreal, December 1924, of which 350 copies were printed for Charles Corbett Ronalds to give to his friends as Christmas presents; and *One of Cleopatra's Nights*, privately printed in 1929 in an edition of 150 copies by Targ & Dordick, Chicago. This contains only this one story, omitting the other five usually included under the title.

A recent addition, and one of the most interesting items, is the Fugisaki Collection of Hearn letters. There are twenty-three letters, all unpublished, with twenty envelopes — sixty pages in all — to Adzukizawa, one of Hearn's students at Matsue. Hearn moved from Matsue to Kumomoto after the first letter, dated "Matsue 25 Oct 1891." The remaining letters are all from Kumo-

moto, the last one dated December 20, 1893. These are written on white paper, contrary to Hearn's usual practice. He was in the habit of using yellow because the glare from the white troubled his eyes; and it is on this that he wrote the five letters to his brother James, which are also in the Library.

Besides editions of Hearn's works there is a group of books by his friends — Elizabeth Bisland, Ellwood Hendrick, J. S. Tunison, Clarence L. Brownell, Percival Lowell, and Henry Edward Krehbiel. There are also many essays and critical articles on Hearn, and illustrative material which makes up the general background —books that have helped to make clearer certain things, not about Hearn primarily but about the things of which he wrote. At first glance they may seem obscure as to their use here, but they have helped me, and are therefore included in the Collection. Each one has a purpose to fulfill in the study of Hearn.

Here let me put in a very personal message to all who know the fun of collecting. No greater satisfaction has come to me than the thought that the Collection is now safe in the Harvard College Library, where it will in the future remain a unit, and not be scattered to the winds. For this, thanks is due to my classmate Lewis I. Prouty, who suggested it.

Edmund Clarence Stedman shortly before his death wrote to Dr. Gould: "The publishers do not understand, as I do, that Hearn will in time be as much of a romantic personality and tradition as Poe now is." May that time be not too long delayed.

CORPORATION MATERIAL IN THE BUSINESS SCHOOL LIBRARY

BY ARTHUR H. COLE

THE Library of the Business School is sometimes regarded as a peculiar institution, especially with respect to its practices in the collection of material. Members of the Harvard library family have not hesitated to tell me directly that we should collect "everything" in the business field. In counter argument I have not failed to point out that libraries working in other areas do not attempt to collect everything in their respective subjects. The Harvard College Library is extraordinarily rich in the field of literature, but gives little houseroom to much of the truck so popular at commercial "lending libraries," let alone the hundreds of "pulp" magazines that one finds displayed at news stands. In a similar manner, the richly stocked Library of the Law School probably contains only a fraction of the total quantity of legal material — briefs and the like — which has been printed in the past relative to court cases in the various jurisdictions the world over.

Quite apart from the special circumstances surrounding the above types of material, I am disposed to carry the argument to our critics on grounds of general principles. The library practice or policy that accepts and keeps everything which comes to the library doors — a few issues of this journal, scattered (haphazard) numbers of that series, etc., etc. — seems to us to represent the bankruptcy of the library profession: librarians have then ceased to have rational control over the materials supposedly committed to their charge. I like to employ to myself the following simile: confronted at home with the necessity of making ready some food, I can put on the table haphazard numbers of spoonfuls from the various packages and cans that chance to stand in the kitchen, or I can plan and cook a rational meal. And the former, to me, unpromising procedure seems to possess the two additional in-

felicities: there appears to be a use of legs to save brains, and there appears to be a danger that the dining-room table would soon overflow.

Yet perhaps the difference in degree between the problem of the Business School Library and that of other Harvard library units may be sufficiently great almost to constitute a difference in kind. The printing presses of the world, especially over the last few decades, have been in a considerable measure occupied with the production of material which is of some moment to the research student in business administration and business history. I have in mind not merely the newspapers that carry business intelligence, or the government documents of national, provincial, or local issue that pertain to business affairs. I am thinking more particularly of the publications of individual corporations, trade associations, and purveyors of business information. The advertising output alone is tremendous, to which should be added the financial documents, house organs, and the like sponsored by business concerns. Trade associations and chambers of commerce have added a growing stream of "literature" in the past seventy-five or one hundred years. In addition one could collect trade journals relating to industries in most of the civilized world, industrial and commercial directories of cities and other areas from Chicago to Singapore, and the multitude of broker or other financial "letters" issued daily, weekly, or monthly in all the financial centers of the more important countries.

The conclusion is obvious: no single institution can collect all the output relating to business. But I am inclined to go even a step further, namely, in holding that, even from the limited standpoint of our own particular tasks, a business library ought not even to *accept* all that drifts in to it. While the business historian is occasionally interested in an isolated fact which might be drawn from a single issue of a trade paper or commercial directory, he is more frequently concerned with changes "over time," as the statistician puts it. He is thinking of one month or year in relation to those which had preceded and those that followed it. Individual pieces tend to satisfy an antiquarian rather than an historical interest. Cohn has been able, in his volume "The Good Old Days,"

to create an engrossing story of "American morals and manners" from a succession of Sears Roebuck catalogues; an individual one even of thirty years ago would have provided pretty thin pickings for the true historian.

As an illustration of how the Business School Library meets the dual problem of selecting worth-while material from a large mass and of introducing continuity into the selected series, I propose here to describe that section of the Library which we denominate the Corporation Records Division.

This collection is devoted to the financial aspects of American and foreign corporations. This was not always so, however, and we have to be rather careful to maintain the lines established a decade or so ago. At one time there was a tendency to place in this section of the Library everything issued by corporations, whether it was a railroad time table or a pension plan for employees, a history of a company or a guide to immigrants published by a western railroad. On second thoughts, however, it seemed probable that students would be more frequently concerned with pension plans in a group rather than one or more relating to a particular enterprise, or they would desire a sketch of a company's life history quite apart from any interest in its detailed financial experience. Accordingly, the non-financial elements were removed from the Corporation Records Division and cataloged in the ordinary manner. The type of material which remained was almost exclusively the annual reports of companies, copies of such financial instruments as indentures and leases, interim or special reports to stockholders, and the miscellaneous publications of investment bankers and the like pertaining to the financial condition of the several companies.

The problem of collecting was still great. Thomas's Registry of Manufactures in the United States alone contains entries on its 3,700 pages of thousands of American business units, a fair proportion of which issue some financial material — and the United States is only one industrial country. There are better than 4,300 corporations whose securities are listed on one or more of the score of financial exchanges in this country alone; and there are stock exchanges from Montreal to Melbourne. Poor's manuals

of railroad, public utility, industrial, and financial enterprises now carry financial data with respect to more than 11,000 companies in the United States and Canada; and these enterprises of course are only the more important in the American and Canadian business fields.

Confronted with the alternatives — given a limited supply of funds, personnel, and storage space — of either a spotty collection upon a large number of companies or a potentially-continuous collection relative to a selected and restricted group, we embraced the latter course. Instead of gathering material haphazardly, we determined upon the policy (*a*) of collecting all available material on all class I railroads and of substantially all public utilities in this country — both of which constitute manageable tasks now that consolidations of units have reduced the number of operating entities; and (*b*) of selecting a number of industrial, insurance, and financial companies in the United States and of foreign corporations generally. Of the latter groups there are, on what we call our "master lists," 634 industrial concerns, 55 insurance companies, 100 banks and other financial institutions, and 15 foreign corporations.[1] For the most part, the lines of selection were determined by the demands of instruction here at the Business School, but an effort was made to secure representation in all the more important industries of the country, whether old or new. In general, the larger and more conspicuous enterprises in American business were alone included, even though for some purposes students would like to make comparisons within a given industry of the experience of large, medium-sized, and small units. Funds, personnel, and storage space did not permit attention to the latter desideratum. Perhaps I should add that the lists as originally constituted a few years ago are reviewed periodically to see that the collection keeps abreast with changes in the relative position of individual units in the whole business picture. From

[1] Information regarding many foreign corporations is to be secured from the manuals equivalent to Poor's and Moody's, which are published in a number of foreign countries, such as the *Stock Exchange Official Year-Book* (London), and Saling's *Aktienführer*, and *Reutführer* (Berlin). The data in such manuals are usually sufficient.

time to time particular corporations are removed from the master lists, and from time to time others are added to them.[1]

Continuity in the material relating to the chosen groups of companies is provided in several ways. The acquisition of current and recent annual reports has proven a relatively simple task. Corporations are willing to put the Library upon their mailing lists for such documents, and our only problem is that of "follow up" to see that oversights have not occurred. We are now endeavoring to broaden the form of this net by asking corporations to put us upon their mailing lists to secure *all* items distributed to security holders: not merely the annual statements, but interim and special reports, proxy statements, presidents' letters, and the like. Corporations have also been generous in their endeavor to provide us with copies of their publications of earlier years, but in a large measure such contributions are inadequate since the companies have not retained surplus copies themselves. Some such early pieces find their way into the second-hand book trade, especially annual railroad reports; and these are purchased out of the Library's general funds. Much of our historical material, however, has been secured by the deposit of collected series by the Harvard College Library or the Boston Public Library, the exchange of items with the Bureau of Railway Economics at Washington or the Transportation Library at Michigan, or through the gift of material from the collections of investment bankers. The old adage about an "ill wind" seems to apply in the last relationship: the mortality in the investment and banking field and the forced curtailment of library facilities there (a result of the recent depression) have provided us with large masses of financial documents which could be had for transportation costs. We are still in the process of absorbing the very considerable quantity which came to us from Lee, Higginson and Company.

[1] For purposes of complete statement, I should add that the demands of research by students in the School call in some cases for double sets of the material relating to individual companies over recent years. One, two, or three duplicate sets of annual reports and the like are provided in a "working file" for such corporations as General Motors or United States Steel. These are held apart from our "historical file", and the material in the folders is discarded as it gets out of date.

Another sort of item, the legal instruments of indenture, lease, or even present-day propectus, present a special type of difficulty. They lack regular periodicity of issue, and they are not always obtainable in a single manner such as application to the companies involved. The work of discovering the individual cases requires persistent scanning of that *omnium gatherum* of American finance, the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, and the subsequent quest for the indicated pieces in the offices of the several corporations, their financial agents, or their legal representatives. Again here historical pieces are procurable sometimes through the secondhand book trade and sometimes through the demise of investment banking libraries.

Continuity in another aspect can be secured only through research. For business history, we are interested not merely in the present-day corporations, but in those which the existing companies have absorbed in their processes of growth. We desire not merely a full file of documents pertaining to the United States Steel Corporation since its organization in 1901, but as full a dossier as possible relative to the Carnegie Steel Corporation and others that went into this famous "trust." Furthermore, it may be noted that much material relating to these "roots" of current companies is available in the folders pertaining to corporations not on the master lists. (Perhaps I already should have indicated that over the past much material not concerned with the recently devised master-list companies has been accepted and filed away in folders. Even at present we accept additional material relating to the less important companies, and file it away as opportunity offers with student help, although spending no other effort to acquire or preserve it. We have not thought it best as yet actually to discard and throw away material not concerned with the master-list corporations.)

This research into company histories, with a chronological record in each case of enterprises absorbed, forms one of the current projects of research by the Library, and it is hoped that ultimately a volume based on these data may be issued — a volume which would be of no little service to students of business, economic, and even political history.

The methods of administration relative to the collection are held as simple as possible. The tasks of acquisition, filing, and cataloging are centered in this Division, while service to the public (including reference work) is made possible by a separate reading room. The material itself is filed into manila folders, which are divided into the major categories of transportation, public utilities, industrials, etc., and placed on our regular stack shelves neighborly to the special reading room. This procedure is frankly a mistake, but one which we cannot for the moment rectify. Considerations of deterioration from dust, costs of handling, and probably of space would suggest the utilization of filing cabinets. Unfortunately, however, the other procedure was established twenty years ago and the Library has not had the funds to revamp the system. The cost of filing cabinets alone would run to several thousand dollars.

Within the units of material pertaining to a given corporation, a breakdown is made, and when the quantity of item suggests the desirability, separate class folders are set up. The chief subdivisions are as follows: annual reports; legal material, such as corporation charters, mortgages, leases, and the like; "primary financial" items, i.e., prospectuses, special letters to stockholders, etc., issued by the corporation itself; and "secondary financial" material, being brokerage house surveys and the like issued by institutions other than the corporation involved.

Cataloging is likewise simple. A set of cards is maintained in the Corporation Records Division pertaining to annual reports of all the railroads, all the public utilities, and all the industrial and other companies on the master lists. As yet no record is introduced into the main public catalog to indicate the corporations with respect to which material is to be found in the Corporation Records Division. This should be done, and will be as soon as possible. In the meantime notice of the collection is provided for the students in the School by means of student tours at the beginning of each year, and to other users of the Library by means of notices posted in the proximity of the card catalog.

The collection itself supplies a variety of purposes. It is used largely throughout the year by students in the School in their

courses relative to corporation finance, investment analysis, and the like. Again, it is consulted by business men and lawyers outside of the School who are seeking data upon matters pertaining to their present problems, such as the particular provisions in a given mortgage or lease, or the details in recent financial statements of a company in which they may contemplate investment. Finally, the research value of the collection is acclaimed by investigators who use it on special tasks. Professor George P. Baker consulted it continuously in the preparation of his volume, "The Formation of the New England Railroad Systems," Dr. Larson found it invaluable in her study of Jay Cooke, and only recently Professor Kirkland, of Bowdoin, has browsed widely in it to ascertain the business leaders and capitalists in early New England history. Other institutions, such as the Marvin-Scudder collection at Columbia or the Transportation Library at Michigan, have assemblies of material with which our Corporation Records Division may be compared, although frequently they are less broad in scope. Only the collection brought together by the Standard Statistics Company of New York appears more extensive, even in its purposeful survey of recent and current business. All in all, the collection at the Baker Library constitutes a segment of the Harvard Library System — the product of many hands and the beneficiary of gifts from various institutions — which is at present and promises to remain a possession in which the whole Harvard Library system may take deserved satisfaction.

EUGENIO MARÍA DE HOSTOS
(1839–1903)

BY GUILLERMO RIVERA

ONE of the recent accessions is a gift by the Hostos Centenary Commission of Puerto Rico of the works in twenty volumes of the illustrious son of that island, Eugenio María de Hostos.

After completing his early training in Puerto Rico, Hostos went to Spain to study. While a student there, he concerned himself with the social and political conditions in Cuba and Puerto Rico. He believed that it was possible to obtain their improvement through the establishment of the first republic in Spain, and he collaborated to that end with the foremost liberals of the time. Promises made to him were not kept, and, disappointed, he went to Paris, and later came to New York.

Hostos has been deservedly called by his biographer Antonio S. Pedreira "Citizen of America." In New York he unselfishly gave his services to the Cuban Revolutionary Junta. From Boston he sailed on an expedition to Cuba, but the ship was wrecked outside Newport. After the Spanish American War he came to Washington, as a member of a commission, to plead before President McKinley for the self-determination of Puerto Rico.

Hostos realized that in order to obtain the independence of Cuba it was necessary to extend the campaign, and create a greater interest in the struggle. Alone, and without any financial help, he left New York in 1871 for South America. In the different countries he visited he left a pleasant memory for his efforts to improve social and political conditions. In Argentina his name is coupled with the idea of the construction of the Transandine Railway; in Chile, among his educational activities the most important was his campaign in favor of the scientific education of women; in Peru he defended the rights of laborers, and of the republic against the concessionaires of the Oroya Railway. In Santo Domingo,

which also considers him its son, he established an educational system at the behest of the President of the Republic.

A great deal more can be said about the good and unselfish deeds of this man who, as his compatriot Emilio del Toro Cuebas, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, has said, "dedicated his life to his belief in the liberation of men and states through education." An examination of his published works proves this statement. For a preliminary survey the reader may be referred to article no. X, "A Commemorative Edition of De Hostos Complete Works," by José A. Fránquiz, in a volume entitled "The Lima Resolution, The Essay on Hamlet, and Other Papers," recently published by the Hostos Centenary Commission, and printed at the Harvard University Press.

The Boston Group of Cataloguers

Harvard figures frequently in the activities of the Boston Group of Cataloguers and Classifiers. Mr. T. Franklin Currier was the principal speaker at the Spring, 1940, meeting held at the Faculty Club on April 17. He took as his subject "What the bibliographer says to the cataloguer."

On May 8, 1941, Dr. Andrew D. Osborn gave the group an enlightening talk on problems of administration and classification not contained in a catalogue code.

At this latter meeting Miss Susan M. Haskins, of our Catalogue Department staff, was chosen Chairman for the year 1941–42.

BIBL.
LONDIN.
UNIV.